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4 June 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

**SUBJECT: Conversation with Representative
Leslie C. Arends (R., Ill.)**

1. Per the Director's instructions, I called on Representative Arends this morning to explain our concern over suggestions in the press and elsewhere, which had come to our attention, that the Agency, or at least some of its people, had either not been entirely objective regarding certain current controversial issues such as the ABM and SS-9 or had not fully supported the Administration's position on these matters. I told Mr. Arends that we were not concerned about our popularity but we were very much concerned about our credibility and integrity, and I wanted to reassure him that in our briefings of congressional committees and individual members on these subjects we had scrupulously followed the same line in each case and further said that so far as present facts and figures are concerned, our information is voluminous and in most respects quite precise, but that so far as future projections were concerned none of us could speak with complete confidence and inevitably honest men do differ.

2. Arends said he was aware of some concern among his colleagues and contacts about the Agency's role in the present situation and much appreciated the Director's sending me to reassure him. He asked from where I thought the misunderstanding had come. I said I was confident that all of us in the Executive agencies and departments who were concerned with these problems shared the same basic information, but when it came to trying to peer ahead five or ten years none of us could speak with confidence and estimates and projections were inevitably colored by our differing preoccupations and responsibilities. I explained the difference between the national estimates and projections.

3. Arends said he understood the problem and felt all we could do was to "call the shots as we see them."

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4. In closing I asked Mr. Arends if he would be good enough to call me should he find the problem causing any real concern among his colleagues in the future and this he agreed to do.

/s/

JOHN M. MAURY
Legislative Counsel

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OLC/JMM:sml (6 June 1969)

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3 June 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with William Woodruff, on the staff of
the Senate Appropriations Committee, re Senator
Fulbright's letter of 2 June


1. Talked with William Woodruff, on the staff of the Senate Appropriations Committee, about Senator Fulbright's letter of 2 June to the Director which referred to a column by Joseph Alsop and posed four questions with regard to SS-9 missiles.
2. Woodruff said he did not see how we could say no to Senator Fulbright in this instance--adding that a refusal to answer could create more problems than a response.
3. We also discussed the possibility of the Director offering to respond by appearing before the Committee again. I commented that the Director might want to talk to Senator Russell about this and Woodruff said the Director might also want to discuss this with the White House. He went on to say that we should coordinate this kind of thing with the Pentagon. He said that Senator Russell is going to talk to Secretary Laird about this when he sees him today or tomorrow and plans to discuss this with the Director the next time he talks with him. He said "they are playing you fellows against one another and after all you all are on the same team."


Deputy Legislative Counsel

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